

Born in 1920, McKinley would lose his father as an infant. Determined to succeed at a young age, Dean took a typing and shorthand course, which would set the stage for his future career.

Following his graduation from high school in 1937, Dean would make the decision to sign up for the Selected Service. However, due to asthma, Dean was unable to pass the physical exam, excluding him from the draft. Yet, his condition did not deter him from serving his country. After undergoing chiropractic treatments, Dean's asthma was alleviated, allowing him to apply for the Marine Corps in December of 1942—the day after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

While stationed in San Diego prior to his unit shipping out to Japan, Dean would take on the role of court reporter for the Board of Inquiry after the tragic suicide of a fellow Marine Officer. The typing and shorthand course taken in his youth unexpectedly proved to be useful as Dean was the only one in his unit able to write shorthand. When presented with Dean's work, the General promoted him on the spot. In as little as two years, Dean would earn promotions to the ranks of Senior Tech, Master Sergeant, and Aviation West Coast which was an unheard of upward-mobility. Impressively, Dean would go on to serve as the General's Stenographer and Secretary.

After contracting malaria while stationed in New Zealand, Dean was discharged from the Marines and returned to the States where he would marry his wife, Marvel. Dean and Marvel have been married for over 77 years and can still be found playing bridge together every week.

Following his time in the military, Dean would begin his career as a chiropractor, devoting 43 years of his life to the very practice that provided him the opportunity to serve his country.

Now as we recognize Dean McKinley, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring his sacrifice and service.

HONORING THE CAREER OF CHIEF BRETT MAHONEY

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 5, 2021

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding, distinguished career of Police Chief Brett Mahoney of Waterford, Connecticut. After more than 26 years of diligent service to the town of Waterford, Chief Mahoney "pulled the pin" and retired on October 29, 2021. He was sent off at a well-attended retirement ceremony where the department and town officials took the opportunity in heartfelt remarks to remember Chief Mahoney just as he is: a highly talented, good-natured community member and a dedicated public servant.

As a native of nearby Westbrook, Connecticut, Brett steered his drive and focus toward bettering Connecticut from an early age. He placed high value in obtaining an education, graduating with a bachelor's in English Literature from Central Connecticut State University. Upon obtaining his first degree, Brett eagerly began his work in Connecticut law en-

forcement with a brief stint at the East Hampton Police Department before starting his nearly three-decade-long journey with Waterford Police in 1995. In his first few years as a Waterford patrol officer, Brett distinguished himself within the department by dutifully serving on task forces with the Federal Bureau of Investigation as well as the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms. His valuable contributions to the force were rightfully recognized by the department as he rose through the ranks to Sergeant in 1999 and then to Lieutenant in 2005. During his time as Lieutenant, Brett committed himself to advancing his law enforcement education, graduating from the FBI National Academy in 2012 and returning to Central Connecticut to earn a master's degree in Criminal Justice. His work with the FBI is something I particularly appreciate, since my father Robert Courtney who spent his retirement years in Waterford served in the FBI during World War II in its Manhattan office.

In October 2015, Lieutenant Mahoney was promoted to Waterford's Chief of Police. It was not just his accomplished background that produced this promotion, but also his obvious leadership qualities. As Chief, Brett led the department with compassion for his community and commitment to ensure the department's success by modernizing and enhancing its members' capabilities. Chief Mahoney strengthened community engagement by integrating 21st technology into the town and department. During his time as Chief, Brett became chairman of the town's Information Technology Committee and oversaw the department-wide rollout of body cameras for all Waterford officers, building upon an already existent brand of transparency with the community.

Brett's transformational leadership extended far beyond the department. Chief Mahoney utilized the department as a stalwart supporter in community outreach efforts like the Waterford Youth and Family Services 2020 Turkey Drive and breast cancer fundraisers for Waterford-led foundations. Chief Mahoney also initiated one of the first-of-its-kind programs in Connecticut, where Waterford officers were trained to connect and interact with community members diagnosed with cognitive impairments so that they had greater sensitivity and awareness with the town's more vulnerable population. Through this new program, first responders have honed their emergency response tactics and gained a refined understanding of the needs of their fellow community members. Chief Mahoney's emphasis on positive departmental and community change coupled with his genuine compassion for Waterford has undoubtedly left the town and the police department in a stronger, better position than it was 26 years ago.

Madam Speaker, as the representative for the town of Waterford, Connecticut I can firmly state that it is constituents like Brett Mahoney whose dedication to their community represents the best of Eastern Connecticut's spirit. Even though he is stepping away from the department, Chief Mahoney has affirmed that his heart will always lay with the Town of Waterford and that he will continue to support the local department any way he can as a resident. Now that he has positioned the department for greater success along with the help of his colleagues, Brett will embark on a new chapter with his family—his wife, Michelle, and two daughters Marin and Clara—as deputy

chief of police with the University of New Haven. To that end, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in honoring and thanking Waterford Police Chief Brett Mahoney for his exemplary service and to wish the Mahoney family all the best on their new path in life.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 2021 DEARBORN, MICHIGAN VETERAN OF THE YEAR STEPHEN FLETCHER

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 5, 2021

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Stephen Fletcher of Dearborn Heights, Michigan on the occasion of being named Veteran of the Year by the Dearborn Allied War Veterans Council. His contributions to our community and to our nation are worthy of commendation.

Raised in Michigan, Mr. Fletcher's interest in serving his country was sparked by his family's legacy of service. His great-grandfather served during World War I, his father served in the Army Air Corps during World War II, and his older brother served in the Army and Marines. In high school, he decided to take courses with the Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps.

Following graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, and went to boot camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, then military occupational specialty training at Marine Corps Base Quantico, where he graduated top of his class. He served overseas in Okinawa, Japan and at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, retiring from the Marines at the rank of corporal. He served from 1981 to 1986.

After the attacks of September 11, 2001, Mr. Fletcher once again felt the call to serve his country. Though he couldn't rejoin the Marines, in July 2014 he joined the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, where he remains today. A familiar face in active military and veteran groups in Metro Detroit, he served as commander of the Dearborn Allied War Veterans Council in 2017. Additionally, Mr. Fletcher is a member of the Marine Corps League 152 and the American Legion Post 364.

Despite his numerous commitments, he still finds time in his busy schedule to give back. Mr. Fletcher is most proud of his work with the Missing in America Project that helps give forgotten remains of veterans a proper burial. Three days a week he volunteers at the Freedom Center at Detroit Airport and assists in creating online memorial profiles for those killed in action on Together We Served. Each year, he helps at various local events including at the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Light Up the Night walk that he attends in honor of his father who had leukemia. He is someone who knows the true meaning of public service.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Stephen Fletcher on this well-deserved commendation. He has honorably served this country throughout his exemplary military career. I join with Stephen's family, friends, and colleagues in thanking him for his continued service to our community and our Nation.